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INTRODUCTION TO THE
BICENTENNIAL ISSUE

SAUL JARCHO, M.D.

Editor-in-Chief
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ALTHOUGH many events of the last few years have combined to foster cynicism among our fellow Americans, calm clinical judgment suggests that we may contemplate the future with confidence based on a broad view of our total national achievement. Therefore, without incurring the accusation of overweening nationalism or chauvinism, we may join wholeheartedly in celebrating the 200th anniversary of our country's independence.

The Academy's role in the commemoration consists of the present symposium. It was felt that a systematic series of articles covering each decade or each region might be tantamount to urging contributors into subjects that did not necessarily attract them. Instead, it was decided to select interesting authors and to offer them free choice of topics within the large domain of American medical history. This system, it was hoped, would place no inhibition on spontaneity. The effectiveness of the policy each reader of the eight ensuing essays will determine for himself.

Doctors Samuel Lambert, Jr., and Frank Berry, two veteran observers of medicine—civil and military, domestic and foreign—open the

symposium with personal observations, reminiscences, and reflections concerning developments that have occurred during the present century. Dr. Lambert's contribution deals chiefly with medical education, while Dr. Berry recounts the story of the medico-military plan that bears his name.

Dr. Adrian Zorogniotti is a great rarity—a historian of urology. Concealing careful research under the mantle of vivacity, he has described the genesis and development of urology in the United States. Discussions of this subject are scarce.

Dr. Edgar M. Bick has chronicled in detail the technical development of orthopedics in the United States. The unfamiliar story shows a familiar blend of American and foreign influences.

Dr. William B. Ober, drawing on his long experience in pathology and on his equally long interest in the history of medicine, has delineated the development of pathology in the United States during the 19th century. He pays due attention to the doctrines bequeathed by the 18th century systematists, to the paradox symbolized by Benjamin Rush, and to the early efforts of William E. Horner, Samuel Jackson, and the great Samuel D. Gross. Much of Dr. Ober's material is not widely known; all of it is interesting.

James O. Breeden, Ph. D., has analyzed the doctrines that prevailed in the Southern states during a period of about 40 years before the Civil War. He shows the influence of Southern conditions and Southern thought on the attitudes and practices of physicians. His analysis provides an additional verification of the rule that in no era has medicine been practiced in total isolation; on the contrary, medicine necessarily shows in countless ways the influence of its ambient medium. It is instructive to follow the operation of this principle under the special conditions of the Old South.

Dr. William D. Sharpe has prepared a detailed analysis of the *Confederate States Medical and Surgical Journal*. This periodical is a major source of knowledge concerning medicine in the Civil War and concerning the social and political background. The *Journal* is now a great rarity and the Academy plans to reprint the entire run; Dr. Sharpe's article will serve as an introduction to the contemplated volume.

In the final essay I have undertaken an extended analysis of the transformation which British medical traditions and practices under-

went after crossing the Atlantic Ocean to North America. Since this difficult theme would require more extensive presentation than is here possible, I have limited the discussion to two areas, viz., medical education and the care of the mentally ill. The conclusion which has been formulated relies on concepts drawn from the study of anthropology.

For the suggestion on which the present bicentennial symposium is based we are indebted to Dr. James E. McCormack, director of the Academy.